

Front Page News  
Cleveland, OH



# CLEVELAND INDIAN'S OMAR VIZQUEL GRANTS JEANNETTE'S WISH

## With Omar's embrace, her wish comes true

By ROXANNE WASHINGTON  
PLAIN DEALER REPORTER

"Oh, my God," said Jeannette Cellura as Omar Vizquel came bopping into the Indians dugout at Jacobs Field yesterday and wrapped his arms around her.

"This is unbelievable."

Cellura, who is 51 and lives in Painesville, is a major-league Vizquel fan.

Making Memories Breast Cancer Foundation, which grants wishes to people who are terminally ill with breast cancer, arranged for the meeting.

In 1999, Cellura's doctors told her she had a year to live.

"But I proved them wrong," she boasted.

Tagging along with Cellura were nine family members and friends, including her 86-year-old father, Jerry, and 78-year-old mother, Jenni.

"How's your knee?" Cellura asked Vizquel about an injury from an earlier game.

"It's doing better," Vizquel replied. He had to disappoint Cellura by telling her he wasn't part of the lineup of the game she had come to watch.

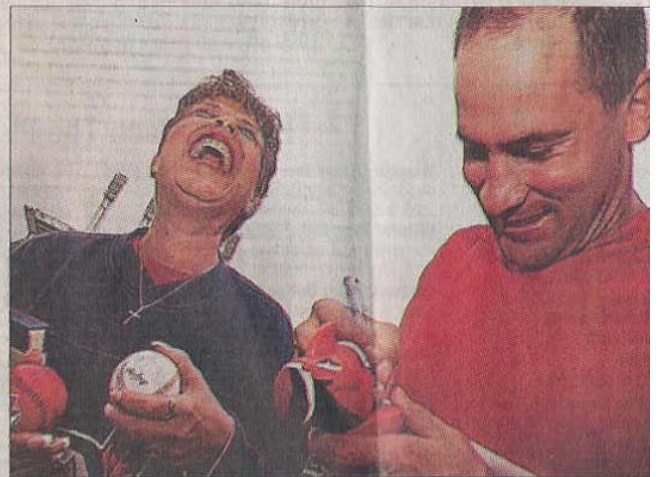
But from the round of applause that family and friends gave him, it didn't seem to matter.

Vizquel was flattered that Cellura chose him as the person she most wanted to meet before she dies.

"It feels weird because I don't understand why people treat baseball players like we're special," he said. "I just feel like a regular person. But I am happy to help out."

Cellura and her family stayed to watch the game, but worried about the weather. By 5 p.m., the rain had stopped. An hour later, the sun came out.

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JOSHUA GUNTER / THE PLAIN DEALER

Jeannette Cellura of Painesville gets a kick out of a comment by Indians shortstop Omar Vizquel as he autographed a keepsake for her before yesterday's game at Jacobs Field. Cellura chose Vizquel as the person she most wants to meet before she dies.